Irrigation potential in Tamil Nadu

874. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation potential created in Tamil Nadu during 1989-90;

(b) whether some new irrigation projects are proposed to be set up to increase that potential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the irrigation potential of the State likely to be increased in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Irrigation potential created in Tamil Nadu during 1989-90 is anticipated to be 24.42 th. ha.

(b) and (c) The State Government proposes to take up 1 major and 2 medium irrigation projects in VIII Plan. The implementation of these schemes will depend on allocation of funds by the State Government. The programme for irrigation development in the State during the next three years has not been finalised.

Names of Inter-State Water Disputes

875. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Inter-State water disputes in the country and since when these are pending;

(b) what steps have been taken to resolve these disputes and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to streamline to process to ensure quick solution of such disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be resolved; and

(e) the names of disputes referred for arbitration and the date on which this was done?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely, sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. While Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given the Report in January, 1987, the Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its Report, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has held six sittings. As regards the proposal from Madhya Pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajaj Sagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary Inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991. The Act does not specify any time limit for Tribunal to give its decision. In addition there are some Inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters. With a view to enable amicable settlement of Inter-State issues in Water Resources between the States, a Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990.

Plant for desalinating sea water

876. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a desalinating sea water plant on an experimental basis to help in easing the drinking water shortage problem;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to establish such plants at Madras and other places which are located on the sea shore